THE '60s

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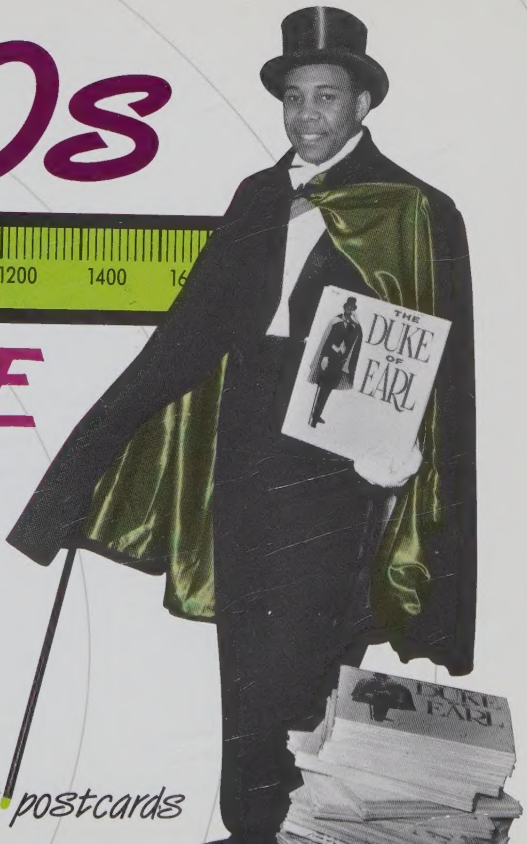
TOP OF THE CHARTS



a book of postcards

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THE '60s

TOP OF THE CHARTS

a book of postcards

POMEGRANATE ARTBOOKS, SAN FRANCISCO

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The '50s: Top of the Charts.
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In the '60s the charts were "dominated" by the Beatles, with 19 No.1 hits, and by the Supremes, with 12 chart-toppers. Elvis and the Stones were a distant third and fourth with 6 and 5 No.1 hits respectively (but let's remember that the King had 11 in the '50s.) In retrospect the mix of popular songs throughout the '60s evidences a type of schizophrenia. The English invasion was in full swing. Motown was everywhere. Psychedelic rock was carving out a niche. Surf music was big. A hit movie could still guarantee a No.1 spot for its theme song (witness "The Love Theme from Romeo and Juliet," "Theme From a Summer Place" and, from the Broadway play, "Hello Dolly"). We could not seem to make up our minds what it was we wanted to listen to. It was a decade of short attention spans and lack of consensus (of the 191 No.1 songs we tracked, 155 of them lasted at the top 3 weeks or less, with 116 lasting but 1 week).

Further evidence of musical confusion would be the strange juxtaposition of Barry McGuire's "Eve of Destruction" and Sgt. Barry Sadler's "Ballad of the Green Berets": both reached No.1 within 5 months of one another in 1965-66. The '60s gave us two No.1 songs in *foreign* languages: Kyu Sakamoto's "Sukiyaki" and the Singing Nun's "Dominique." Oddly enough, both of these artists died bizarre deaths, he in the Japan Airlines 747 crash near Tokyo in 1985 and she by suicide.

For the longest ride as a No.1 song in the '60s we had a tie: both the Beatles' "Hey Jude" and Percy Faith's "Theme From a Summer Place" occupied the top slot for 9 weeks (with Marvin Gaye's "I Heard It Through the Grapevine" coming in third with a 7 consecutive week run). As a

measure of the odd place held by the Supremes in America's musical heart, it should be noted that only 1 of that group's 12 No.1 hits lasted at the top for more than 2 weeks ("Baby Love" held the position for 4).

For the No.1 song that lasted the longest on the charts (not just in the No.1 slot), there were 3 songs that no one we know today would list in their musical memories of the '60s: The Archies' "Sugar Sugar," Louis Armstrong's "Hello Dolly" and B. J. Thomas's "Raindrops Keep Falling on My Head." All lasted 22 weeks before dropping off.

Guess who *didn't* have a No.1 hit during the '60s—quite a few surprises here: The Hollies (no better than No.5), The Jefferson Airplane (best showing was another No.5) and Jimi Hendrix (barely made a dent at No.20). Also, Johnny Cash, James Brown, Chuck Berry, Glen Campbell, Creedence Clearwater Revival, Bob Dylan, Sam Cooke, Blood, Sweat and Tears, The Isley Brothers and Gladys Knight and the Pips all came close (either a No.2 or No.3 song), but never reached the top.

Of those songs that had long runs on the charts without reaching No.1, we have a 4-way tie for the honor of the longest consecutive stay at 26 weeks: Hank Ballard's "Finger Poppin' Time" (1960), Don Costa's "Never on Sunday" (1960), Henry Mancini's "Moon River" (1961) and Cream's "Sunshine of Your Love" (1968).

And finally, contrary to what we would all swear to, The Kingsmen's "Louie Louie" never made it to the top—it peaked at the No.2 position in 1963.

The '60s: Top of the Charts
Chubby Checker (b. Ernest Evans, 1941)
"The Twist," 1960, 1961
"Pony Time," 1961

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The '60s: Top of the Charts
Ray Charles (b. Ray Charles Robinson, 1930)
"Georgia On My Mind," 1960
"Hit the Road, Jack," 1961
"I Can't Stop Loving You," 1962

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The '60s: Top of the Charts
The Shirelles
"Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow," 1960
"Soldier Boy," 1962

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Maurice Williams and the Zodiacs
"Stay," 1960

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James
Hagimann

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The Tokens
"The Lion Sleeps Tonight," 1961

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Dion (b. Dion DiMucci, 1939)
"Runaround Sue," 1961

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The '60s: Top of the Charts
Roy Orbison (1936–1989)
"Running Scared," 1961
"Pretty Woman," 1964

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The '60s: Top of the Charts
Gary U.S. Bonds (b. Gary Anderson, 1939)
"Quarter to Three," 1961

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The '60s: Top of the Charts
Del Shannon (b. Charles Westover, 1939)
"Runaway," 1961

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The '60s: Top of the Charts
Bobby Lewis (b. 1933)
"Tossin' and Turnin'," 1961

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The '60s: Top of the Charts
Gene Chandler (b. Eugene Dixon, 1940)
"Duke of Earl," 1962

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The '60s: Top of the Charts
Bruce Channel (b. 1940)
"Hey! Baby," 1962

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The '60s: Top of the Charts
The Chiffons
"He's So Fine," 1963

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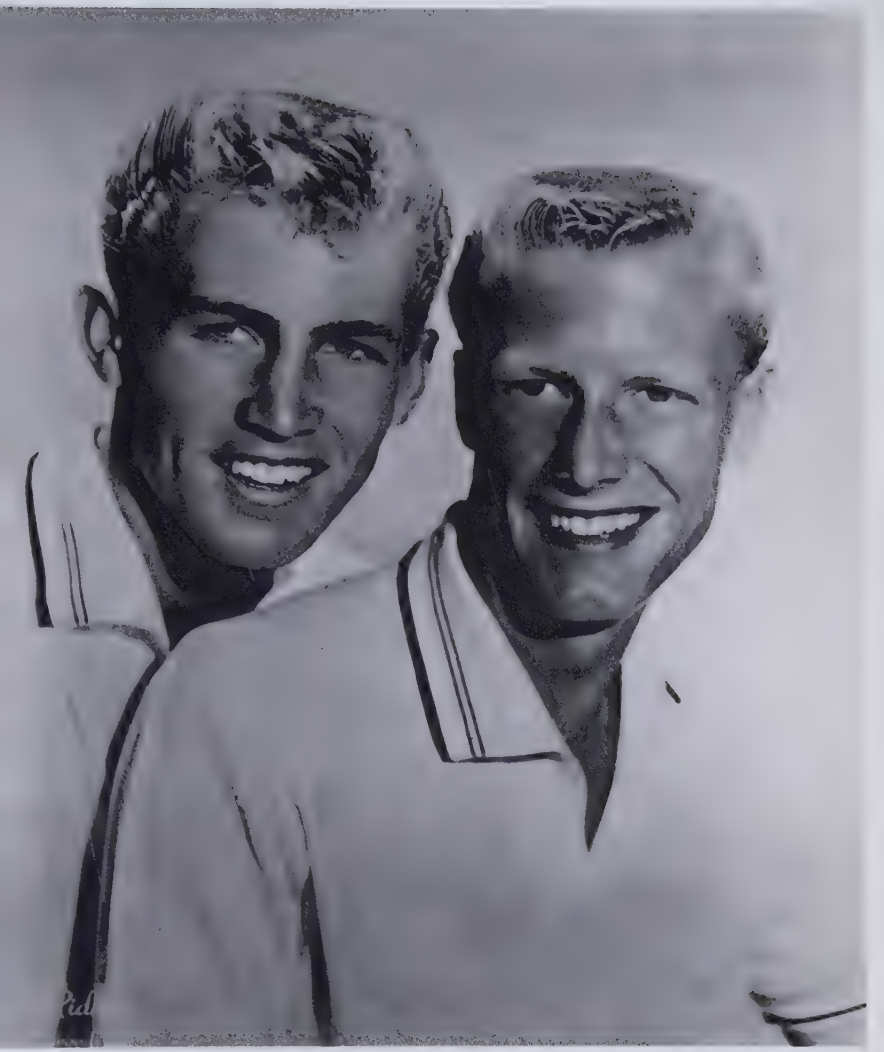

The '60s: Top of the Charts
Jan and Dean (Jan Berry, b. 1941; Dean Torrence, b. 1940)
"Surf City," 1963

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The '60s: Top of the Charts
Little Stevie Wonder (b. Steveland Morris, 1950) "Fingertips, Pt. 2," 1963

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The '60s: Top of the Charts
The Righteous Brothers, Bill Medley (b. 1940) and Bobby Hatfield (b. 1940)
"You've Lost That Lovin' Feelin'," 1964
"(You're My) Soul and Inspiration," 1966

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HILTON VALENTINE

The '60s: Top of the Charts
The Animals
"The House of the Rising Sun," 1964

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The '60s: Top of the Charts
Mary Wells (b. 1943)
"My Guy," 1964

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The '60s: Top of the Charts
Simon and Garfunkel (shown here in an early photograph as "Tom and Jerry")
"The Sounds of Silence," 1965
"Mrs. Robinson," 1968

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James
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The McCoys
"Hang On Sloopy," 1965

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Percy Sledge (b. 1941)
"When A Man Loves A Woman," 1966

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Tommy James and the Shondells
"Hanky Panky," 1966 "Crimson and Clover," 1968

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The '60s: Top of the Charts
The Young Rascals (shown here on The Ed Sullivan Show)
"Good Lovin'," 1966
"Groovin'," 1967
"People Got to Be Free," 1968

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The '60s: Top of the Charts
The Mamas and the Papas
"Monday, Monday," 1966

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The '60s: Top of the Charts
The Troggs
"Wild Thing," 1966

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The '60s: Top of the Charts
Aretha Franklin (b. 1942)
"Respect," 1967

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The '60s: Top of the Charts
The Turtles
"Happy Together," 1967

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The '60s: Top of the Charts
Marvin Gaye (1939–1984)
"I Heard It Through the Grapevine," 1968

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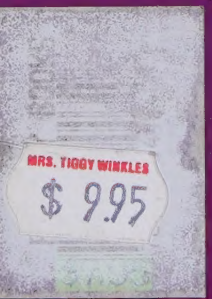
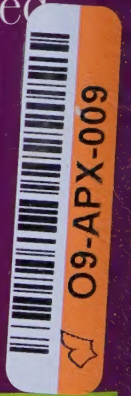
THE '60s
TOP OF THE CHARTS

featuring 30 postcards of 1960s musicians whose songs reached number 1 on the pop charts!





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